

REMARKS

Claims 104-126 remain in this application.

Election of one of the patentably distinct species described in paragraph 2 of the office action dated May 26, 2006 has been required.

Claim 104 is generic to these species. The applicants elect without traverse the species noted below for examination:

- I. Of the applying steps defined in claims 105-108, applicants elect the species that do not require an applying step.
- II. Of the cross-linking steps defined in claims 109-113, applicants elect the species defined by claim 109.
- III. Of the processes using the different pre-ceramic materials defined in claims 115-116, applicants elect the species defined by claim 115.
- IV. Of the shaping steps defined in claims 118-123, applicants elect the species defined by claim 122.
- V. Of the specific preparation steps defined in claims 124-126, applicants elect the species defined by claim 124.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 104-126 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. To the extent it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

While no fees are believed due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-3683.

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Respectfully submitted,

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